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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR
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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: JUNE 2, 2005 (1700 HOURS LOCAL) --
CLASHES BETWEEN ANTI-BARRIER ACTIVISTS AND IDF IN WEST
BANK; PALESTINIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS
DEMONSTRATING IN THE GAZA STRIP

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

11. (SBU) Summary: Fourteen Palestinian and foreign peace activists were injured from tear gas inhalation during clashes with IDF troops over construction of the separation barrier near the village of Beit Suriq, northwest of Jerusalem, June 1. Israeli security forces arrested 21 Palestinians in various locations in the West Bank. Israeli authorities arrested three Israeli border policemen and one former border policeman on June 1 on suspicion that they sold weapons to a Palestinian man from East Jerusalem. Settlers in the Old City of Hebron threw stones at Palestinians and painted slogans defaming Islam on some storefronts in the Old City June 1. In the Gaza Strip, UNRWA reported June 2 that dozens of PA military intelligence officials were demonstrating outside the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) building against what UNRWA characterized as the splitting of PA Military Intelligence between two security branches. End Summary.

West Bank

12. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian media, 14 Palestinian and foreign peace activists were injured from tear gas inhalation during clashes with IDF troops over construction of the separation barrier near the village of Beit Suriq, northwest of Jerusalem on June 1.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops entered Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, and arrested five Fatah activists June 1.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops apprehended five members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Idna village, near Hebron, June 1. The IDF subsequently released three of those detained, but two remain in custody.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, the IDF arrested one Fatah activist in Beit Ummar, southwest of Bethlehem, June 1.

-- Arrests: Palestinian sources reported that, IDF troops entered Attil village, near Tulkarm, and arrested two members of PIJ and one Fatah member June 1.

-- Arrests: According to Israeli and Palestinian media sources, the IDF arrested eight PIJ activists near Hebron June 2.

-- According to Israeli media, Israeli authorities arrested three Israeli border policemen and one former border policeman June 1 on suspicion that they sold weapons to a Palestinian man from East Jerusalem. Two of the suspects were released to house arrest, and two were remanded by the court.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian sources, settlers in the Old City of Hebron threw stones at Palestinians and painted slogans defaming Islam on some of the city's storefronts June 1. No injuries were reported, but tensions remained high in Hebron.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian media, settlers set on fire 30-40 dunums (approximately 8-10 acres) of Palestinian-owned farmland containing olive and almond trees near the village of Hussan, not far from Bethlehem, June 1.

13. (SBU) CLOSURES/CURFEWS

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF imposed a curfew

on the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, after arresting five Fatah activists (see Arrests) on June 1. The entrance to the camp was blocked by dirt and concrete slabs.

Gaza

14. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Clashes: Nil.

-- Shooting: The IDF reported that Palestinians shot at an IDF outpost east of Rafiah Yam Village June 1. No injuries were reported.

-- Shooting: Palestinians shot at IDF troops approximately one kilometer from an IDF outpost south of Rafah June 1, according to the IDF. No injuries were reported.

-- Shooting: A shooting occurred near an IDF outpost southeast of Netzarim June 1 in which Palestinians targeted IDF troops without resulting injuries, according to the IDF.

-- Missile: An anti-tank missile was fired at an IDF bulldozer in the vicinity of an IDF outpost north of Rafah June 1, according to the IDF.

-- Mortar: The IDF reported a mortar shell fired at Israeli civilians in the Netzarim Village early June 2. No injuries resulted.

-- Explosions: Nil.

15. (SBU) ARRESTS: Nil.

16. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS:

-- Route Four (Salah Ed-Din Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 2, but closed at Netzarim junction. The coastal road at Netzarim T-Junction was open.

-- The Erez Crossing was open to internationals, diplomats, and Palestinian laborers June 1.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open June 1. According to UNRWA, 600 Palestinian laborers entered the zone June 1.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for laborers, but open for aggregates used in construction June 1.

-- Karni Terminal was open for the import and export of materials June 2.

-- Rafah Terminal was open without restrictions June 2.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed, and Toufa checkpoint was open with restrictions on males age 16-30, June 2.

18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- UNRWA reported that dozens of PA military intelligence officials were demonstrating outside the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) building against what UNRWA characterized as the splitting of PA Military Intelligence between two security branches. The protesters blocked several streets in the city while firing heavily into the air during the march. Demonstrations also took place in Rafah. UNRWA reported at about 1230 June 2 that the demonstration had broken up.
Connelly